

## Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO NO

SUBJ: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - NORWAY

REF: A. USNATO 5140; V. DRC/WP(74)5 NORWAY;

C. OSLO 4590; D. OSLO 4787;

E. STATE 236940

SUMMARY: DRC CONDUCTED MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF NORWEGIAN FORCE PLANS 1975-1979 (REFS A AND B) OCTOBER 29. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON MONEY AND MANPOWER ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS: NORWAY REPS VERIFIED 1975 REAL DEFENSE SPENDING INCREASE OF 1.2 PERCENT (REFS C AND D); STAED GOAL OF 23,000 REGULARS/CIVILIANS IN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE; CONTESTED IS CONCLUSIONS ON DECREASED READINESS OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE UNITES; AND SUPPORTED NORWAY'S POLICY OF DEPENDENCE ON MOBILIZABLE RESERVES AND EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTES, DISCUSSING RESERVE TRAING AND RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. NORWAY REPS WERE WELL-PREPARED AND CANDID. REVIEW WAS LIVELY AND ENLIGHTENING

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WITH EIGHT NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND MC, SACEUR AND SACLANT REPS TAKING PART. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF NORWEGIAN FORCE PLANS 1975-1979

OCTOBER 29, CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) CALLED FOR DISCUSSION ON MAJOR POLICY THEMES, ESPECIALLY MONEY AND MANPOWER ISSUES. HE REVIEWED NORWEGIAN RESPONSE TO DPQ(74) (REF A), COMMENTING ON THE PREDOMINANCE OF MANPOWER PROBLEMS, COMMENDING NORWAY FOR PROGRESS MADE ON REINFORCEMENT RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS, AND DEPLORING THE TREND TOWARD EARMARKED RATHER THAN ASSIGNED FORCES. HE THEN COMMENTED ON NORWEGIAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE PLANS, MAKING MOST OF SAME POINTS NOTED IN REF A, BUT PLACING EMPHASIS ON DETERIORATION OF READINESS OF NORTHERN BRIGADE AND REASSIGNMENT OF 28 AIRCRAFT FROM NATO TO NATIONAL COMMAND.

2. MILITARY REPS THEN COMMENTED ON NORWEGIAN FORCE PLANS. MC REP (GEN. VON ZUR GATHEN) COVERED SAME POINTS AS CHAIRMAN, BUT COMMENDED NORWAY FOR ACCURATE REPORTING OF READINESS STATUS OF NORTHERN BRIGADE, EXPRESSING WISH THAT OTHERS WOULD REPORT AS ACCURATELY. SHAPE REP (BGEN MILLER) COMMENTED ON NORWEGIAN RELIANCE ON MOBILIZATION, QUESTIONED EFFECTIVENESS OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL ARTILLERY SYSTEM AND REMARKED ON LATE TIMING OF ARRIVAL OF F-104/F-5 REPLACEMENT AND ITS POSSIBLE ANTI-SHIPING ROLE. SACLANT REP EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH POSSIBLE MARITIME ROLE FOR F-104/F-5 REPLACEMENT, COMMENTED ON ADVERSE EFFECT OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE ON SHIP MANNING AND TRAINING, AND STATED THAT OSLO TRILATERAL EXAMINATION HAD PRODUCED SOME AGREEMENT ON INCREASED MPA EMPLOYMENT.

3. DEFENSE SPENDING. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) INTRODUCED MOD REPS. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) INTRODUCED MOD REPS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR-GENERAL MOLVIG AND COL. EDLUND. MOLVIG THEN DELIVERED A LENGTHY STATEMENT ON NORWEGIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. PARLIAMENT DEBATED NORWAY'S 1974-78 DEFENSE PLAN LAST MAY; GOALS AND ASSUMPTIONS WERE APPROVED, INCLUDING REAL-TERM DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OF 2.25 PERCENT PER YEAR FOR 1975-78, BUT FUNDING REQUIRES ANNUAL APPROVAL. HOWEVER, BUDGET INTRODUCED THIS MONTH PROPOSES ONLY 1.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL DEFENSE SPENDING, WITH SIMILAR RISES PROJECTED FOR 1976, 1977 AND 1978 BUDGETS. THE QUOTE MAJIC FIGURE END QUOTE SEEMS TO BE ONE PER CENT. REDUCED GOVERNMENT SPENDING HAS NOT YET  
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AFFECTED DEFENSE DEMANDS TO ARISE FROM CONTINENTAL SHELF EXPLOITATION; ALLOWANCE FOR THESE DEMANDS WILL BE MADE SEPARATELY FROM THOSE COVERING PRESENT DEFENSE NEEDS. RESULTS OF NEW DEFENSE COMMISSION STUDIES, LOOKING AT PROGRAM THROUGH 1985, WILL NOT IMPACT ON FORCE PLANS UNTIL AT LEAST 1979.

4. MOLVIG THEN DEPARTED FROM HIS PREPARED STATEMENT TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON RESOURCE KEY ELEMENT PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN DRC. HE STATED THAT RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS USING PERCENT OF GNP OR INCREASE IN REAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURE AS MEASURING RODS ARE NOT ACCEPTED OUTSIDE THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY. IN NORWAY PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE THREAT ESTABLISHES THE BASIS FOR DEFENSE EXPENDITURE, AND THE MOST HE HOLDS HOPE FOR IS MAINTAINING DEFENSE

SPENDING AT CURRENT REAL LEVELS, KEEPING UP PRESENT COMBAT CAPABILITIES, WITH A POSSIBLE ADD-ON FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) ON HOW NORWAY MEASURES THIS COMBAT CAPABILITY, MOLVIG INDICATED THAT HE HAS NO MEASURE, BUT THAT MAINTENANCE OF ABSOLUTE STRENGTH (CURRENT FORCE CAPABILITIES) IS LESS EXPENSIVE THAN MATCHING INCREASES IN WP CAPABILITIES WHICH NORWAY ESTIMATES WOULD REQUIRE 4 PERCENT REAL INCREASE PER YEAR. CHAIRMAN COMMENTED ON SUBJECTIVE NATURE OF SUCH COMPUTATIONS WHEN STRATEGY IS DETERRENCE, AND THAT IF THE BUDGET IS STABLE, NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS WOULD NOT GET MADE. LEINE INTERVENTED TO SUGGEST A LOOK AT THE RECORD. NORWAY HAS SEVENTH HIGHEST PER CAPITA GNP AND SECOND HIGHEST PER CAPITA DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN NATO EUROPE. LEINE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN NORWAY'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDING. DISCUSSION OF RESOURCES ENDED WITH CHAIRMAN'S CIRCULATION OF REVISED SUMMARY OF DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER (REF B) DEPLORING MODEST EARLY TERM RISE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

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5. MANPOWER AND TRAINING. COL. EDLUND SPOKE AT LENGTH ON NORWEGIAN MANPOWER ISSUES. HE REVEALED NORWEGIAN PLAN TO RETAIN REGULAR STRENGTH (INCLUDING CIVILIAN) AT 23,000, WITH CONSCRIPTS FILLING OUT PEACETIME BALANCE. NORWAY'S LARGE SIZE AND SMALL POPULATION DICTATE DEPENDENCE ON RESERVES, WHOSE TRAINING LEVEL IS HIGH FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS FOLLOWING CONSCRIPT PERIOD, AND LESS INTENSE IN LATER YEARS. HE POINTED OUT DISTURBANCE TO FULLY-EMPLOYED LABOR MARKET OF MORE FREQUENT TRAINING, AND STATED THAT NORWAY CAN FIELD A FORCE OF 113,000 WITHIN 15 DAYS OF MOBILIZATION. CHAIRMAN ASKED HOW

NORWAY ARRIVED AT 23,000 FIGURE. ANSWER IS THAT IT IS THE MINIMUM NEEDED TO MAINTAIN PRESENT DEFENSE ACTIVITY. SHAPE REP QUESTIONED WHETHER LARGE-UNIT TRAINING IS GIVEN SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS. EDLUND REPLIED THAT TRAINING PERIOD STARTS WITH TRAINING AT INDIVIDUAL LEVEL, PROGRESSING TO LARGER UNIT EXERCISES TOWARD THE END OF THE PERIOD, AND REFERRED TO UNPOPULARITY OF LARGE EXERCISES WHERE TROOPS QUOTE JUST SIT AROUND END QUOTE. SHAPE REP AND COL. EDLUND AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF TRAINING EMPHASIS AT THE COMPANY AND BATTALION LEVEL. THREAD OF MANPOWER DISCUSSION  
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THROUGHTOUT WAS DIFFICULTY OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF REGULARS IN A COUNTRY ENJOYING FULL-EMPLOYMENT. NORWEGIANS FEEL THEY HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE PAST YEAR.

6. RECEPTION FACILITIES. CHAIRMAN COMPLIMENTED NORWEGIANS ON THOROUGHNESS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION OF REINFORCEMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO BELGIAN REP (TAYMANS) QUESTION, COL. EDLUND BRIEFLY REVIEWED MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CANADA, US, FRG AND UK, POINTING OUT THAT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE OR WILL SHORTLY BE COVERED IN DETAIL.

7. INDIVIDUAL FORCE GOALS. REVIEW COVERED ONLY A FEW INDIVIDUAL FORCE GOALS. US REP (CLINARD) ASKED HOW PRESENTLY AVAILABILE SHORT-RANGE ANTI-AIR MISSILES FAIL TO MEET NORWEGIAN REQUIRMENT. EDLUND REPLIED THAT NORWAY HAD LOOKED AT BLOWPIPE, REDEYE AND SWEDISH SYSTEM, BUT THAT NORWAY NEEDS AN ALL-WEATHER SYSTEM, WITH BETTER PROVISIONS FOR IDENTIFICATION. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED ABOUT KOBHEN-CLASS SUBMARINE REPLACEMENT PLANS. NORWAY REPS REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH FIRST UNIT, IN 1980, WILL BE A PROTOTYPE, NORWAY PLANS INCLUDE SECOND UNIT IN 198283; ADDING THAT NORWAY WILL REPLACE KOBHEN ON ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS OF CHAIRMAN AND SHAPE REP ON 1974 AIR FORCE SHORTFALLS, NORWEGIAN REPS REPLIED THAT PLANS CALL FOR CORRECTION OF CF-104 OVERHAUL DELAYS IN 1974-75.

8. CHAIRMAN THANKED NORWEGIAN REPS FOR FORTHRIGHTNESS AND VERY PRODUCTIVE MULTILATERAL REVIEW. HE AND ALL REPS BELIVED THAT DISCUSSION OF POLICY THEMES HAD ENABLED BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NORWEGIAN FORCE PLANS 1975-79. MCAULIFFE

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